



We know sometimes there are questions about how teams qualify for playoffs and the whole seeding process. We want to help our member schools and their fans better understand the process. What follows are some frequently asked questions we get about seeding.

#### FAQ Is the bracket size the same in each classification?

No; the bracket sizes vary by classification and by sport. Here is the breakdown:

**Baseball, Soccer and Softball:**  
1A and 4A use a 48-team bracket  
2A and 3A use a 64-team bracket

**Basketball and Volleyball:**  
4A has a 48-team bracket  
1A, 2A and 3A use a 64-team bracket

**Football** is the only sport that is subdivided. This means schools in each classification are sorted by Average Daily Membership numbers (or ADM for short) so that teams are playing against teams closer to their school size.

**Bracket Breakdown:**

- 1A, 1AA, 4A and 4AA use a 24-team bracket
- 2A, 2AA, 3A and 3AAA use a 32-team bracket

Of note, the only predetermined brackets are those used for lacrosse, tennis and wrestling. Predetermined brackets are based solely on conference finishes.

#### FAQ How are qualifiers determined in a split conference?

The highest finishing team from a given classification will automatically qualify, regardless of overall conference finish.

Here's an example:

1A/2A Split Conference

Finish	School	Classification
1	School A	2A
2	School B	2A
3	School C	2A
4	School D	1A
5	School E	1A

In this example, **School A** and **School D** both earn a #1 automatic berth.

#### FAQ How do conference results factor in qualifying and seeding?



After the regular season is over, the qualification process begins at the conference level. If a team finishes first in the conference, it is automatically guaranteed a spot in the brackets. Since not all conferences have the same number of teams and in an effort to be fair, the automatic qualifiers are modified as follows:

- Conferences with 1 to 4 teams receive 1 automatic qualifier
- Conferences with 5 to 8 teams receive 2 automatic qualifiers
- Conferences with 9 or more teams receive 3 automatic qualifiers

**Important note about conference tournaments:**

If a team other than the regular season champion wins the tournament, that team will automatically qualify for the playoffs, but will be seeded as an at-large berth.

Each of the 57 NCHSAA conferences has an administrator (or conference president) who, prior to seeding day, enters all final regular season standings and other important information into the sport-specific seeding database by the NCHSAA staff.

#### FAQ Once the conference results are in, what happens next?

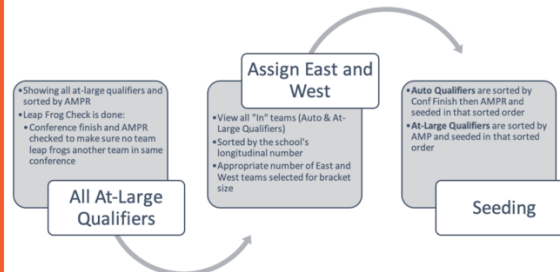
The NCHSAA partners with MaxPreps for game schedules and results. On the morning a sport is to be seeded, NCHSAA staff downloads sport specific results and combines that data with the conference finish results.



Throughout the season, NCHSAA staff posts the Adjusted MaxPreps Rankings (AMPR). These rankings are run especially for the NCHSAA and are different from the rankings you see on the MaxPreps page. The NCHSAA specifically asked MaxPreps to remove certain types of data on the basis of promoting good sportsmanship. This means that the rankings you see on your MaxPreps team page or the MaxPreps site ARE NOT the same as the rankings posted on the NCHSAA website and used during seeding. The standings are similar but not identical. There is a MaxPreps FAQ list on the NCHSAA Seeding page if you have more questions.

#### FAQ Conference results are in. Adjusted MaxPreps Rankings are in. Now what happens?

Here are the behind-the-scenes steps NCHSAA staff and coach representatives take during the seeding phase of the process:



The database puts in the 1A and 4A byes into the brackets and the preliminary brackets are created.

**NCHSAA Men's First Round Basketball Playoff: 1A****PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:25 AM***Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	1A	W
1	Winston-Salem Prep	21-4-0
32	Murphy	8-18-0
16	Queens Grant	18-9-0
17	East Surry	15-7-0
8	Mitchell	11-14-0
25	Langtree Charter	13-16-0
9	Bishop McGuinness	18-8-0
24	Mount Airy	7-15-0
5	Starmount	19-5-0
28	Thomas Jefferson	9-14-0
12	Cherryville	20-5-0
21	North Stanly	16-10-0
13	South Stanly	17-10-0
20	North Stokes	17-6-0
4	North Rowan	24-2-0
29	Cherokee	14-13-0
3	Lincoln Charter	21-6-0
30	Carolina International	8-17-0
14	Andrews	19-7-0
19	Union Academy	17-9-0
6	Hayesville	20-5-0
27	Piedmont Community Charter	2-20-0
11	Chatham Charter	26-4-0
22	Bessemer City	14-10-0
7	Highlands	16-9-0
26	Highland School of Technology	10-13-0
10	Pine Lake Prep	18-8-0
23	South Stokes	8-17-0
15	Albemarle	14-12-0
18	Mountain Island Charter	16-7-0
2	Community School of Davidson	24-3-0
31	West Montgomery	10-12-0

**NCHSAA Men's First Round Basketball Playoff: 1A****PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:25 AM***Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	1A	E
1	Henderson Collegiate	26-2-0
32	Lejeune	11-13-0
16	Weldon	15-7-0
17	Northside - Pinetown	17-8-0
8	Pamlico County	14-7-0
25	Franklin Academy	14-14-0
9	Ocracoke	15-8-0
24	Gates County	12-13-0
5	Granville Central	17-8-0
28	Roxboro Community	12-14-0
12	Riverside	16-9-0
21	Tarboro	14-9-0
13	North Edgecombe	11-11-0
20	South Robeson	12-12-0
4	West Columbus	21-4-0
29	Falls Lake	16-14-0
3	Northwest Halifax	22-1-0
30	East Carteret	9-12-0
14	Rosewood	14-8-0
19	Louisburg	12-12-0
6	Research Triangle	23-3-0
27	East Columbus	10-15-0
11	Voyager	18-10-0
22	River Mill	18-13-0
7	Princeton	22-2-0
26	Camden County	12-14-0
10	John A. Holmes	21-4-0
23	Chatham Central	13-9-0
15	Bear Grass Charter	14-8-0
18	Rocky Mount Prep	11-12-0
2	Washington County	22-1-0
31	Raleigh Charter	11-13-0

**NCHSAA Men's First Round Basketball Playoff: 2A**
**PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:25 AM**
*Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	2A	W
1	Forest Hills	24-2-0
32	North Lincoln	8-15-0
16	Lexington	17-9-0
17	Madison	16-9-0
8	Wilkes Central	22-3-0
25	Patton	14-12-0
9	North Davidson	22-5-0
24	Lake Norman Charter	10-12-0
5	West Stokes	19-6-0
28	Bandys	10-12-0
12	East Rutherford	19-5-0
21	Newton-Conover	16-11-0
13	Mount Pleasant	21-5-0
20	R-S Central	17-9-0
4	Hendersonville	21-2-0
29	Carver	11-14-0
3	Shelby	20-5-0
30	Ledford	14-10-0
14	Franklin	17-7-0
19	Hibriten	20-5-0
6	Mountain Heritage	19-2-0
27	Lincolnton	10-14-0
11	Walkertown	19-7-0
22	Atkins	18-9-0
7	Draughn	21-5-0
26	West Stanly	13-13-0
10	Maiden	22-4-0
23	South Point	14-11-0
15	Bunker Hill	16-10-0
18	Salisbury	17-8-0
2	East Lincoln	25-2-0
31	North Surry	9-14-0

**NCHSAA Men's First Round Basketball Playoff: 2A**
**PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:25 AM**
*Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	2A	E
1	Farmville Central	26-0-0
32	Beddingfield	8-15-0
16	South Granville	19-8-0
17	St. Pauls	17-9-0
8	South Columbus	19-8-0
25	J.F. Webb	12-9-0
9	Southwest Onslow	14-9-0
24	Fairmont	15-12-0
5	Wheatmore	19-7-0
28	Ayden - Grifton	11-15-0
12	Cummings	16-10-0
21	Bertie	15-11-0
13	Randleman	18-7-0
20	Carrboro	16-8-0
4	Vance County	21-5-0
29	Whiteville	14-11-0
3	Goldsboro	21-4-0
30	Bartlett Yancey	13-13-0
14	Spring Creek	19-7-0
19	West Craven	17-7-0
6	Reidsville	18-9-0
27	SouthWest Edgecombe	14-13-0
11	First Flight	18-8-0
22	North Lenoir	11-14-0
7	Hertford County	16-10-0
26	James Kenan	14-11-0
10	Kinston	22-6-0
23	Trinity	15-10-0
15	Nash Central	9-15-0
18	Dixon	15-12-0
2	Greene Central	19-7-0
31	Clinton	13-13-0

*Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	3A	W
1	Cox Mill	24-2-0
32	Erwin	13-12-0
16	Tuscola	19-7-0
17	Parkland	15-10-0
8	Southern Guilford	21-4-0
25	Northwest Cabarrus	11-12-0
9	Hickory	22-4-0
24	Weddington	15-11-0
5	Kings Mountain	19-6-0
28	Ashbrook	16-10-0
12	North Buncombe	18-8-0
21	Marvin Ridge	15-11-0
13	Huss	20-6-0
20	McMichael	19-8-0
4	Charlotte Catholic	18-8-0
29	Enka	14-11-0
3	Freedom	25-2-0
30	Northern Guilford	11-14-0
14	Sun Valley	15-9-0
19	Ben L. Smith	13-12-0
6	Asheville	17-9-0
27	Asheboro	16-9-0
11	A.L. Brown	19-7-0
22	A.C. Reynolds	16-10-0
7	Statesville	16-9-0
26	Alexander Central	17-9-0
10	Mount Tabor	18-8-0
23	Robinson	9-16-0
15	South Iredell	16-8-0
18	Concord	15-11-0
2	Southwest Guilford	26-0-0
31	West Henderson	14-11-0

*Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	3A	E
1	Hillside	25-1-0
32	Clayton	12-12-0
16	Terry Sanford	19-7-0
17	C.B. Aycock	10-16-0
8	West Carteret	19-5-0
25	Rocky Mount	13-10-0
9	New Hanover	15-10-0
24	Hunt	14-9-0
5	Southern Lee	23-3-0
28	Northern Durham	10-16-0
12	Fike	17-9-0
21	Chapel Hill	15-10-0
13	Person	16-10-0
20	Western Alamance	18-8-0
4	Eastern Alamance	25-1-0
29	Cape Fear	12-10-0
3	Walter M. Williams	22-3-0
30	Havelock	12-11-0
14	Northside - Jacksonville	15-7-0
19	Eastern Guilford	18-9-0
6	Westover	19-6-0
27	D.H. Conley	14-10-0
11	South Johnston	23-3-0
22	White Oak	21-5-0
7	East Wake	19-6-0
26	Southern Nash	14-9-0
10	Southern Durham	20-6-0
23	Northwood	17-9-0
15	Harnett Central	13-11-0
18	Dudley	15-11-0
2	Northern Nash	24-1-0
31	West Brunswick	14-12-0

**NCHSAA Men's First Round Basketball Playoff: 4A**
**PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:25 AM**
*Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
4A		W
1	North Mecklenburg	22-3-0
32	Bye	
16	Ragsdale	13-10-0
17	Hickory Ridge	13-12-0
8	Butler	20-6-0
25	Bye	
9	R.J. Reynolds	18-6-0
24	McDowell	10-15-0
5	Northwest Guilford	18-7-0
28	Bye	
12	Myers Park	19-8-0
21	Hough	9-16-0
13	Hopewell	15-10-0
20	Berry	13-11-0
4	Davie	23-2-0
29	Bye	
3	Olympic	20-5-0
30	Bye	
14	Mallard Creek	12-14-0
19	Porter Ridge	12-11-0
6	West Charlotte	20-6-0
27	Bye	
11	Vance	19-6-0
22	Grimsley	11-14-0
7	Ardrey Kell	21-5-0
26	Bye	
10	High Point Central	16-10-0
23	Lake Norman	10-15-0
15	East Forsyth	15-9-0
18	Rocky River	13-11-0
2	Independence	21-6-0
31	Bye	



**NCHSAA Men's First Round Basketball Playoff: 4A**
**PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:25 AM**
*Higher seed is the host*

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
4A E		
1	Millbrook	24-1-0
32	Bye	
16	Riverside-Durham	15-9-0
17	Apex Friendship	21-6-0
8	Hoggard	20-7-0
25	Bye	
9	Panther Creek	22-5-0
24	Cary	8-16-0
5	Holly Springs	19-4-0
28	Bye	
12	Broughton	18-9-0
21	Lumberton	16-10-0
13	Garner Magnet	16-9-0
20	Cardinal Gibbons	13-12-0
4	Seventy-First	24-3-0
29	Bye	
3	South Central	25-1-0
30	Bye	
14	Rolesville	18-7-0
19	Richmond	16-11-0
6	Athens Drive	18-7-0
27	Bye	
11	Pinecrest	20-6-0
22	Page	10-14-0
7	Pine Forest	19-6-0
26	Bye	
10	Knightdale	20-5-0
23	Sanderson	8-15-0
15	Heritage	15-11-0
18	Leesville Road	15-12-0
2	Wakefield	22-4-0
31	Bye	